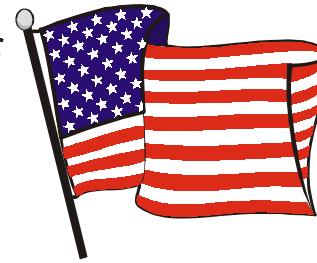


International Joint Commission's

International
Niagara
Board of Control



MEDIA ADVISORY

MARCH 30 , 2001

Delay in Ice Boom Opening

BUFFALO, NEW YORK. Based on the present ice cover remaining on eastern Lake Erie and the amount of ice below Niagara Falls, the International Joint Commission's International Niagara Board of Control has determined that opening of the Lake Erie-Niagara River ice boom will be delayed beyond April 1.

The most recent information indicates that the lake area east of Long Point, Ontario and Erie, Pennsylvania is 60 percent ice covered, representing about 1220 square miles (3160 square kilometers). An ice bridge, or jam, remains in the Maid-of-the-Mist Pool below Niagara Falls.

The current International Joint Commission Order of Approval governing operation of the ice boom requires that all floating sections of the boom be opened by the first day of April unless there is more than 250 square miles (650 square kilometers) of ice in eastern Lake Erie. Other factors such as the quality of ice, ice build-up in the river above/below the Falls, in the lower Niagara River or unfavorable weather predictions must also be considered.

Reconnaissance flights will be conducted to monitor the ice conditions and determine when boom opening can commence. The earliest ice boom opening was on March 5, 1998 and the latest was May 3, 1971. Last year, removal began on March 23.

A media advisory will be issued to inform the public when this year's boom opening begins.

#

For more information contact Richard Griffith at (716) 879-4339